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A. B. S.

Public School
Contract.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

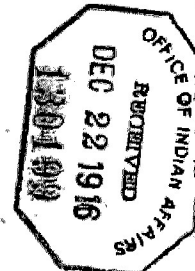
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DEC 23 1916

EDUCATION-SCHOOLS

Albuquerque, N. Mexico

December 18, 1916

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I am inclosing herewith an application for contract with the Tejon district in Kern County, California, for twenty children. I am disposed to recommend a contract in this case with a view to giving it a trial. This particular band of Indians has been the subject of very extensive correspondence. The Office will recall that they have been threatened, so it is alleged, with ejection from their present home on the Tejon ranch, which is owned by a syndicate of Los Angeles capitalists. This band of Indians was a subject of investigation by me about August 1914 and I believe that Mr. Terrell has made some reports ~~each May~~ since and in fact, I think I have written a few letters since that time myself. About two years ago the county superintendent succeeded in getting a small district school opened in this Indian settlement in a building that probably belonged to the Catholic church, but since that time no school has been maintained and the present proposal is that these children should

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be carried some six miles up the canyon to a white district, but a district where school has not been regularly maintained for the past few years, owing to the lack of children. I admit that I am in doubt about this working out successfully, but owing to the great amount of agitation, there has been in this connection and knowing something of the interest of the McKenzies, whom I have met, I believe we are justified in entering into this contract. The Office will note from Mrs. McKenzie's letter, which I inclose herewith, that their plan is to hold school through the summer and not through the winter. This would probably necessitate our making a new contract the first of July, but this may be a chance to start something in the way of school for those children and I believe we should try it.

Very respectfully,

C. H. Ashbury
Special Agent.